

House File 510 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 510

BY HEDDENS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the composition of election board panels
2 appointed by the county commissioner of elections and
3 including effective date and applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 49.12, Code 2011, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **49.12 Election boards.**

4 There shall be appointed in each election precinct an
5 election board which shall ordinarily consist of three or five
6 precinct election officials. At the commissioner's discretion,
7 additional precinct election officials may be appointed to
8 work at any election. Not more than a simple majority of
9 the members of the election board in any precinct shall be
10 members of the same political party or organization if one
11 or more registered voters of another party or organization
12 or registered voters who do not indicate affiliation with a
13 party or organization are qualified and willing to serve on the
14 board.

15 Sec. 2. Section 49.13, subsection 2, Code 2011, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 2. For all elections in which a partisan office is on
18 the ballot, election boards shall include members of the
19 two political parties whose candidates for president of the
20 United States or for governor, as the case may be, received
21 the largest and next largest number of votes in the county
22 at the last general election. Election boards ~~may~~ shall
23 also include persons not members of either of these parties.
24 However, persons who are not members of either of these
25 political parties shall not comprise more than one-third of the
26 membership of an election board.

27 Sec. 3. Section 49.14, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 2011,
28 is amended to read as follows:

29 a. The election board panel drawn up pursuant to section
30 49.15 contains the names of a sufficient number of political
31 party designees and persons affiliated with no party to permit
32 appointment of both the regular precinct election officials and
33 any substitute precinct election officials from that panel; or

34 Sec. 4. Section 49.15, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2011,
35 is amended to read as follows:

1 a. Each panel shall include members of each of the
2 political parties referred to in section 49.13, whose names
3 may be designated by the county chairpersons of each of these
4 political parties not less than thirty days prior to each
5 primary election. The commissioner may place on the election
6 board panel names of persons known by the commissioner to be
7 members of these political parties, if the respective county
8 chairpersons fail to designate a sufficient number of names,
9 ~~and may also add.~~ Each panel shall include names of persons,
10 ~~whether or not they~~ who are not members of either of these
11 political parties, who have advised the commissioner they are
12 willing to serve on the election board.

13 Sec. 5. Section 49.18, Code 2011, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 49.18 Vacancies occurring on election day.

16 If, at the opening of the polls in any precinct, there shall
17 be a vacancy in the office of the precinct election official,
18 the vacancy shall be filled by the commissioner or, with the
19 commissioner's approval and for that election only by the
20 members of the board present, consideration being given to
21 the political party affiliation or no party affiliation of
22 the person appointed if necessary in order to comply with the
23 requirements of sections 49.12 and 49.13.

24 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT AND APPLICABILITY. This
25 Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon
26 enactment and applies to election board panel members appointed
27 on or after that date.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill requires the appointment of persons not affiliated
30 with a political party or nonparty organization to election
31 board panels appointed by the county commissioner of elections.
32 The members of the election board serving at each precinct
33 polling place are chosen from the election board panel.
34 Current law providing that not more than one-third of the
35 membership of an election board may be comprised of persons who

1 are not members of either of the political parties is retained.

2 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to election

3 board panel members appointed on or after that date.